



DISCOVER

The Development of Combat Power and Efficiency

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Through the Many Facets of Aerospace Medicine

Air Force releases new mission statement

By Master Sgt. Mitch Gettle

Air Force Print News

The realities of the world have changed dramatically since the creation of the Air Force in 1947 and continue to change almost daily.

With these changes in mind, Air Force leaders released a new mission statement that defines the current and future direction of the Air Force.

"Today, our world is fast paced, constantly shifting and filled with a wide range of challenges," Secretary of the Air Force Michael W. Wynne and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley wrote in a joint Letter to Airmen. "Our mission is our guiding compass, and now more than ever we need it to be clear and precise."

The mission statement defines the "where and what" the Air Force accomplishes on a daily basis: *The mission of the United States Air Force is to deliver sovereign options for the defense of the United States of America and its global interests — to fly and fight in Air, Space, and Cyberspace.*

The statement includes two new concepts, "sovereign options" and "cyberspace," which the secretary and chief defined. They said having sovereign options is the essence of being a superpower.

"Our task is to provide the president, the combatant commanders, and our nation with an array of options ... options that are not limited by the tyranny of distance, the urgency of time, or the strength of our enemy's defenses," they said. "With one hand the Air Force can deliver humanitarian assistance to the farthest reaches of the globe, while with the other hand we can destroy a target anywhere in the world."

The term cyberspace includes network security, data transmission and the sharing of information. "We have quite a few of our Airmen dedicated to cyberspace ... from security awareness, making sure the networks can't be penetrated, as well as figuring out countermeasures," Secretary Wynne said. "The Air Force is a natural leader in the cyber world and we thought it would be best to recognize that talent."

Adversaries will use any method or venue necessary to contest America, and it is an Airman's calling to dominate air, space and cyberspace, the leaders said.

"If we can decisively and consistently control these commons, then we will deter countless conflicts," they said. "If our enemies underestimate our resolve, then we will fly, fight, and destroy them."

Using past air power pioneers as examples of understanding the mission, they said, "The Air Force's mission statement has evolved over time, but it does not change the nature of who we are or what we do."

Brooks holiday traditions evoke memories

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

Brooks holiday traditions have taken many forms, from satirical jabs at holiday entertainment to the reverence for the season reflected in outward symbols. Some have been popular, while others have lasted for as long as it takes to say "Seasons Greetings." All, however, are imbedded in the memories of those who have been part of the Brooks community.

"The Air Base Group used to put on a Christmas pageant," recalls retired Air Force colonel Herb Klein who served as ABG commander from 1985-89 and was the Human Systems Center vice commander from 1990-92. The pageant was an outgrowth of an overactive imagination dulled the year before by what Mr. Klein said was a truly boring organizational celebration.

"I decided to spice things up," he admits, referring to the pageant he had seen at another base that had become an instant hit as a holiday tradition. The satirized target for ABG's irreverence was the popular holiday ballet "The Nutcracker Suite" staged at the Brooks Club.

"Members of the organization, dressed as dancing flowers, wore combat boots, long-handled underwear and pink (ballet) tutus. The crowning moment (of the show) was when a guy dressed as a bumble bee tried to pollinate the flowers and was hit in the face with a whip cream pie," Mr. Klein said.

This annual mayhem lasted for years as a Brooks holiday tradition until the first Persian Gulf War. Troop deployments created a bittersweet atmosphere here, while the pageant became a casualty of the changing mood against holiday frivolity during a time of war.

Much of what the Brooks community has celebrated during this time of year has had spiritual significance.

"The thing I miss is the silhouette of the nativity reflected on Building 150 using spotlights," recalls Iris Seals with the 311th Communications Squadron. A civil servant at Brooks since 1965, Ms. Seals remembers



Photo by Capt. Jason Bishop

Elly Bishop, daughter of Capt. Jason Bishop of the 311th Human Systems Wing public affairs office, lets Santa Claus know she wants a Barbie computer at the annual tree lighting ceremony. The ceremony is one of several long-standing holiday traditions at Brooks City-Base.

surprising her young son with the illuminating image as they drove along Southeast Military Drive. "It covered nearly the entire length of Building 150," she said.

For years, that building also featured a giant Christmas tree in the lobby that various base organizations helped decorate. "There was a lot of camaraderie then that doesn't quite exist now," she said.

Camaraderie also inspired two other Brooks holiday traditions: the building decorating and holiday card contests. Organizations competed for base bragging rights with elaborate holiday displays that fulfilled an annual theme. That tradition has nearly disappeared today, along with the contest for the best holiday cards built from plywood and displayed along the approach to the old main gate.

The now defunct Civil Engineering Squadron used its then considerable resources to help decorate the base for Christmas, recalls former CE jack-of-all-trades Eli Rush who today works at Hangar 9. "It would take CE two weeks to decorate the base. Electricians, painters and carpenters were involved," Mr. Rush said.

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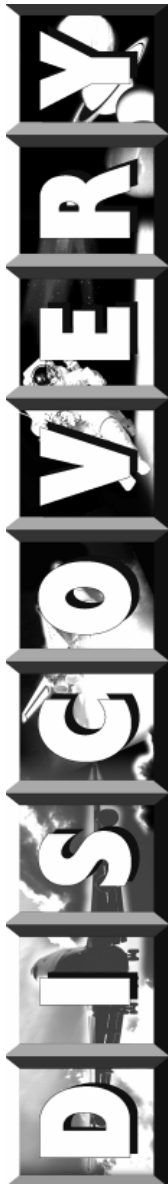
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AFMC commander sends holiday greeting

By Gen. Bruce Carlson

Commander, Air Force Materiel Command

This month many of you will take leave to celebrate the holiday season. I encourage you to do that. It's a great time to focus on family and friends while addressing our social and spiritual needs and recharging ourselves for the coming year. As you celebrate, please remember in your thoughts and prayers deployed Airmen around the world who are away from home and in harm's way. Support their families here at home - contact them, find out what they need and how you can help, invite them to join your family, watch out for them.

Many of us will travel during the holidays. Commanders/directors, chiefs, first sergeants, and supervisors... please take time to talk to your people, face-to-face, about safety and risk management. Review our AFMC safety webpage — <https://www.afmc-mil.wpafb.af.mil/HQ-AFMC/SE> — which contains information that will help keep you and your people safe. Your personal involvement and emphasis could save a life. Pay very close attention to all of your people in the time leading up to the holidays, during the holidays, and immediately after - it's a very stressful period of time for many of our people.

Remember, nothing is more important to me personally than the safety and well being of our AFMC

people and their families. Ensure each and every one of your people understands that and takes it to heart.

Vicki and I wish each and every member of the AFMC family a joyous holiday season! We are so very proud to serve alongside you, and we are so grateful for the important work you do every day, which supports our great nation and the cause of freedom around the world.

Be safe, be well... and let's all be good wingmen!



GEN. BRUCE CARLSON
AFMC Commander

The real mystery of the Abbey

(Editor's note: This article is the final part in a continuing series of articles highlighting the best board game alternatives for classic yet tired games like Monopoly, Clue and Risk. Although in our age of the Playstation and Xbox, board games may be considered old fashioned, but we feel they are a socially interactive form of entertainment that can be a way to bring families closer together while having fun. We hope you have enjoyed the column.)

By Kendahl Johnson

Discovery editor

With games like *Ticket to Ride* and *Discovery* favorite *Pirate's Cove*, Days of Wonder has a terrific track record with its board games. There was no reason to think that its deduction game *Mystery of the Abbey* wouldn't also score high marks. The real mystery, however, is how the game failed to truly live up to its potential. Of all the board games reviewed by the *Discovery* in the past six months, the *Mystery of the Abbey* is our least favorite, receiving our lowest rating.

Mystery of the Abbey is basically a deduction game with a few twists to keep it fresh. It is set in the Templars' Abbey — a monastery of 24 monks. One of the 24 monks is the murderer of Brother Adelmo and it is up to the players to use questioning and deduction skills to discover and accuse the culprit.

As in *Clue*, players navigate through different rooms on the game board. When a player lands in the same room as another player, he can ask that player a question about a monk's personal attributes. (Each monk has three personal characteristics — fat or thin, bearded or clean shaven, and hooded or unhooded. In addition, the monks each have a title (Father, Brother or Novice) and come from one of three orders (Templar, Franciscan and Benedictine). The questioned player can take a vow of silence and refuse to answer, or he can answer the question and ask a question in return. Certain rooms also allow player actions, like drawing valuable cards or stealing monk cards from another player's hand.

As is the case with most Days of Wonder releases, the game is absolutely beautiful. The game board and playing components are of the highest quality. The suspect sheets are fully color. The artwork is tremendous. Each suspect is depicted as a different character, which adds a lot of flavor to the game.

The game play itself didn't match the beautiful components. Overall, I enjoy deduction games. Although I haven't played *Clue* in more than two decades, I have fond memories of playing the game with my family. So I really had high hopes for *Mystery of the Abbey* and based on positive word-of-mouth, I was certain it would be a winner. Unfortunately, I was disappointed.

My biggest complaint with the game was Mass. At the end of every fourth round of turns, mass

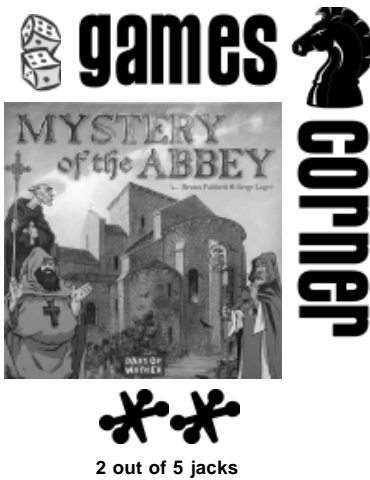
is called. All player markers are returned to the chapel. Since a player can only move two spaces each turn, the most one could move before being whisked back to the chapel is eight spaces. This really limits choices; there just aren't a lot of places you can visit in one round.

Following mass, an event card is played. These cards introduce a new element into the game, with certain events increasing the game's fun factor. For example, one card requires players to speak in plainsong (Gregorian chant) for an entire round of turns. However, too few event cards are introduced to feel the positive affect of such cards. And while some of the cards have no effect on the game itself, other cards have a major effect. There just isn't a good balance, making event cards rather pointless.

I really thought questioning other players would be the best part of the game. While there is a challenge of coming up with creative ways to ask questions that help you without giving too much information to the rest of the players, the trading of cards virtually eliminates opportunities for strategic questioning. Throughout the game, players are constantly exchanging cards. And when mass is called, players are forced to pass monk cards to the player on their left, the amount of cards increasing with each mass.

This introduces such a random and chaotic element that it virtually makes asking unique and clever questions nearly impossible. As a result, most questions asked help everyone equally, and all players discover the identity of the murderer at the same time. The winner is then determined by who can get to the chapter hall the fastest to make the accusation.

Since deducing who committed the crime is at the heart of the game and is its best attribute, people who enjoy *Clue* or other deduction games might enjoy *Mystery of the Abbey*. And despite my dislike, I feel that there might be a good game hiding inside somewhere. Some tweaks to the rules could create a more enjoyable playing experience. But overall, there was just too little planning, strategy and player interaction to make the game too enjoyable. *Mystery of the Abbey* just wasn't much fun.



2 out of 5 jacks



Brooks announces ambassadors for 2006

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

It's not surprising to those who know them that Brooks City-Base's 2006 Fiesta Ambassadors believe they are very compatible as a team because they understand the importance of good community relations.

Capt. Belitza Dominguez and Senior Master Sgt. David Riggs also know their common bond as people-oriented communicators will help them fulfill their responsibilities during the ten-day Fiesta celebration and throughout a myriad of other community events next year.

As valued assets in promoting Air Force core values, these professionals began fulfilling their new career challenge Dec. 8 when they were introduced to the Brooks community during the annual ambassador ceremony held at Hangar 9.

"What's interesting about participating in the ambassador program is that we're all ambassadors," said 311th Human Systems Wing director Eric Stephens.

Whether military or civil servant, he said, everyone who serves represents the Air Force to an always observant public. He said the Brooks community is fortunate to live in a city that historically has been very supportive of the military. Referring to the Brooks Ambassador pro-



Photo by Staff Sgt. Brandy Bogart

2006 Brooks Ambassadors — Back Row (from left): Master Sgt. David Riggs, 311th Mission Support Group; 1st Lt. Jeff Wuethrich, 311th MSG; Tech. Sgt. Lisa Padberg, U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine; Master Sgt. Robert Jones, Air Force Institute for Operational Health; Maj. Michael Dennison, Air Force Medical Support Agency; and Airman 1st Class Richard McGinthy, 68th Information Operation Squadron. **Front Row:** Capt. Belitza Dominguez, 311th Human Systems Wing; Staff Sgt. Shannel Peliter, AFIOH; 1st Lt. Ethel Seabrook-Hennessey, 311th HSW; Staff Sgt. Luz Ortiz, AFIOH; Marsha Garcia, USAFSAM; Maj. Carolyn Wolfer, AFIOH; and Sharon Earley, 311th HSW. Eric Stephens (far right), 311th HSW's director, welcomes the 13 new ambassadors.

gram, he said, "This is a little way of (us) giving back to the city that has embraced the military for over 100 years."

"It's important to maintain good relations with the community," Captain Dominguez said. She said she feels honored to have been selected as the Fiesta ambassador. She is the 311th Human Systems Wing's Military Equal Opportunity chief.

Born in Puerto Rico, she later moved to Adrian, Mich. In 1999, she earned an Air Force commission and a bachelor of arts degree in psychology through the University of Michigan's ROTC program at Ann Arbor.

In 2002, Captain Dominguez earned a master's of education degree in counseling and human

development from Hardin-Simmons University. She is currently seeking a license in professional counseling and plans to earn a doctorate degree in psychology.

Echoing what Mr. Stephens said during the announcement ceremony, Sergeant Riggs said, "I feel I'm already an ambassador as a representative of the Air Force. Participating as a Brooks Ambassador is just another avenue in which to serve."

Although Sergeant Riggs said he was humbled to be selected from a group of highly-qualified candidates, the Multimedia Services manager looks forward to his new opportunity to represent Brooks and the Air Force.

Sergeant Riggs joined the Air Force in 1986 as a graphics specialist. He earned a bachelor's degree in communications from

Campbell University and a master's degree in human resources from Troy State University.

13 ambassadors to represent Brooks

Base officials recognized 13 Brooks military and civilians who will serve as ambassadors in 2006 at a ceremony Dec. 8 at Hangar 9. During the ceremony, officials also announced the two ambassadors who will represent Brooks at the 2006 Fiesta San Antonio celebration.

The 13 ambassadors will support Career Day speaking opportunities at various schools, participate in community parades, judge local science fairs, and serve as tour guides for the Brooks Newcomers Tour.

Brooks ambassadors for 2006 include 1st Lt. Jeff Wuethrich and Senior Master Sgt. David Riggs from the 311th Mission Support Group; Tech. Sgt. Lisa Padberg and Ms. Marsha Garcia from the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine; Master Sgt. Robert Jones, Staff Sgt. Shannel Peltier, Maj. Carolyn Wolfer and Staff Sgt. Luz Ortiz from the Air Force Institute for Operational Health; Capt. Belitza Dominguez, 1st Lt. Ethel Seabrook-Hennessey and Ms. Sharon Earley from the 311th Human Systems Wing; Major Michael Dennison from the Air Force Medical Support Agency, and Airman 1st Class Richard McGinthy from the 68th Information Operations Squadron.



2005 Year in Review: History made at Brooks

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

It was a watershed year in many ways, for no one in the community will forget 2005 as perhaps one of the most historic years here since Brooks Field emerged 83 years ago as the premiere primary military flying base in America.

Topping the list was the decision in May by the Base Realignment and Closure Commission to shift Air Force missions at Brooks elsewhere. President Bush’s approval of the BRAC recommendations in September paved the way for Brooks City-Base’s continual transformation into a growing technology and business center.

This action was followed in August by another significant historical event when Eric Stephens became the first civilian director of the 311th Human Systems Wing during a change of leadership ceremony with Brig. Gen. Tom Travis, former 311th HSW commander.

Another historic first occurred in April when Dr. James Watson, the 1962 Nobel Prize recipient for co-discovering DNA’s structure, made his inaugural visit to Brooks. He made the trip a memorable one for everyone who attended his presentation in Bldg. 180 titled “My Life with DNA.”

Another great American scientist, Dr. Raymond Damadian, returned to San Antonio to be honored for his career accomplishments that started here as an Air Force captain with the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine. Dr. Damadian invented the Magnetic Resonance Imaging medical scanner 10 years after leaving Brooks upon separation from the Air Force. He was inducted in November, along with Brooks Field aviation pioneer Col. Carl Crane, “The Father of Flight Simulators,” into the San Antonio Science & Technology Hall of Fame.

A great Air Force Research Laboratory scientist, Lt. Col.

(Dr.) Pat Roach, retired here in February. An Air Force laser optics pioneer, Colonel Roach co-invented the Intraocular Laser Surgical Probe that today is used to help clear vision obstructions in diabetic retinopathy patients.

The late U.S. Representative Frank Tejeda, a native southsider whose 28th Congressional district includes Brooks, was further honored here in January when a truly unique statue of him was unveiled during a special ceremony.

Local artist Michael Pasko created the world’s largest example of the Yosegi technique, a 5th century Japanese art form, through the 450-pound wood-carving of Tejeda depicted as a U.S. Marine in Vietnam. The statue, made from 32 separately carved interlocking pieces of wood, was displayed at the Tejeda Directed Energy Bioeffects Laboratory lobby.

Other historic events at Brooks included the first homeland security strategy meeting held by the FBI-founded Infragard; the realignment of the



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Alfonso Ramirez Jr.

Eric Stephens (right) receives the wing flag from Brig. Gen. Ted Bowlds, now commander of the Air Force Research Laboratory, at a change of leadership ceremony in August. Mr. Stephens made history as the first civilian director of the 311th Human Systems Wing.

Brooks Clinic with Lackland AFB’s Wilford Hall Medical Center; the 311th HSW winning its fifth consecutive Air Force Outstanding Unit Award; and in June, 311th Communications Squadron’s Tech. Sgt. John Berry made the last Air Force high altitude research chamber ride in the 63-year-old history of the program.

In 2005, the Brooks community also marked the passage of two of its own: 55-year-old Dr. Stephen Schuschereba, assigned here with the Army Medical Research Detachment, who died on May 25; and the 94-year-old “Father of the Air Force Space Program,” Gen. Bernard Schriever, for whom Schriever Park is named, who died on June 19.



Humane Society foster pets of deployed military members

By Elizabeth Castillo

Discovery writer

The call of military deployment can be a stressful and emotional time for military personnel. The hassle of finding a suitable “pet sitter” is now made easier thanks to the Humane Society SPCA of Bexar County.

The Humane Society is reaching out its currently running foster care program to military personnel being deployed overseas for 90-120 day orders.

Deployed personnel are able to leave their pets in the hands of caring families and are only responsible for the cost of food and medical care that their pet may need during the duration of their deployment.

“For the military, it is great because we can set them up with someone who can care for their animals therefore they don’t have to give it up. For the foster parents, it’s an opportunity for them to support the military,” said Nancy Mifflin, director of volunteer and foster care services for the Humane Society SPCA of Bexar County.

Those interested in having their pets fostered through the Humane Society must give ample notification of interest in order for the Humane Society to find suitable housing for the animal.

“One thing that I urge everyone to do is, as soon as they find out they are deploying, contact us,” said Mrs. Mifflin. “It is not something that can be arranged overnight; it takes a little while.”

The reason that the process of finding foster care for the animals is lengthy due to the amount of care

and thought that is put into finding a suitable foster family for the pet. After finding a suitable foster family for the pet, the owner and family are arranged to meet each other along with the animal that will be fostered. The deploying personnel are also able to request a tour of the home to which their pet will be housed.

The Legal Office at Brooks, along with its other responsibilities to deploying military personnel, is now offering information on how to have pets fostered during deployment.

“It’s great for them (military personnel) to have this program,” said Shelley Fox, legal assistant for the Brooks legal office. “What we have started to do is give them information about fostering, so they do not have to give up their animals.”

Those interested in becoming foster families or those in need of having there pets fostered are welcome to use the Humane Society as a liaison in their fostering needs. Foster families are required to fill out an application which can be obtained by calling the Humane Society at 226-7461.

Along with the Humane Society, other organizations are dedicated to offering foster homes for the animals of deployed military personnel. *Netpets.org* offers “Military Pets Foster Project” in order to house and nurture deployed personnel’s dogs, cats, birds, horses and many other pets.

“When people foster through us, we provide everything else. They just add the love,” said Mrs. Mifflin.

When people foster through us, we provide everything else. They just add the love.

Nancy Mifflin

Director of foster care services, Humane Society



Brooks traditions increase holiday spirit

Continued from page 1

He had the annual job of re-painting the life-size wooden manger scene characters that preceded the fiberglass nativity figures featured today at the Brooks Chapel.

The chapel was always festively decorated for Christmas, Mr. Rush recalls, explaining that a star was placed on top of the chapel’s steeple with lights strung along the roof and down the sides of the building. “We also used to decorate the trees around the chapel and wrapped red tinsel around light poles that resembled candy canes,” he recalls.

The Brooks Fire Department also got into the holiday spirit as the official transportation for Santa Claus who rode a fire truck to the Brooks Club where the tree lighting ceremony took place.

“Joe Bonamo always played Santa and his daughter Jennifer was an elf,” recalls Ms. Seals about Old St. Nick whose wife was Brooks Youth Services director Dixie Bonamo. “Santa would ring the (fire truck) bell as he arrived at the club where kids were given candy canes and had their photo taken with him,” Ms. Seals said.

The base Christmas tree lighting ceremony was initially held



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Alfonso Ramirez Jr.

Caroling in Brooks housing is one of many holiday traditions enjoyed by the base community. Frosty often accompanies the carolers, giving out candy canes to the little ones.

outside the Brooks Club, says Shelia Klein, Brooks Heritage Foundation executive director.

“Group Commander David Glaister, a British exchange officer, started the tree lighting tradition when he donated a Leyland Cypress (to the base),” Mrs. Klein said.

This tradition began in 1987 and eventually moved to the F-100 Shriever Park site. That park was re-located near Hangar 9

earlier this year where the tree lighting ceremony was held.

The Brooks tree lighting event is among a few holiday traditions that have survived along with holiday caroling. Organizational holiday parties are a distant memory now, along with the annual holiday mini-concert. Replacing the concert is the annual base housing caroling event sponsored by the Youth Programs Center.

AF declares F-22A operational

LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE, Va. - The Air Force’s most advanced weapon system is ready for combat, Air Force officials announced Thursday.

In reaching initial operational capability, the F-22A Raptor has been certified ready for employment.

Declaring the transformational fighter IOC means the Raptor’s proven capabilities are now available for use in combat around the globe and are supported by a properly trained and equipped force. It also means the aircraft is qualified to perform homeland defense missions when required. In the words of Gen. Ronald E. Keys, Air Combat Command commander, “If we go to war tomorrow, the Raptor will go with us.”

“F-22A IOC means our warfighters now have an unprecedented lethal mix of air-to-air and air-to-ground capabilities at their disposal,” General Keys said. “The Raptor’s cutting-edge technology brings us continued joint air dominance despite advancing enemy threats.”

Reaching the IOC milestone culminates a collabora-

tive effort between Air Force organizations and the service’s industry partners over the past 25 years. The road to IOC included the F-22A System Program Office turning Air Force requirements into a successful acquisition program; developmental flight test and evaluation, simulation and ground testing at Edwards AFB, Calif., and Eglin AFB, Fla.; engine testing at Arnold AFB, Tenn.; missile testing at Holloman AFB, N.M., and over the Pacific Test Range; tactics development at Nellis AFB, Nev.; pilot and maintenance training at Tyndall AFB, Fla.; and deployability.

“The F-22A fulfills a long quest to bring fifth-generation capabilities of stealth, supercruise and precision to the warfighter today and 30 years from today,” General Keys said. “Now that we have met our first promised milestone of a fully capable, multi-mission platform ready for combat, we are already focused on furthering our integrated tactics development, refining our deployability, and growing and training our force.”

The F-22A will ensure U.S. joint forces' freedom from attack and freedom to attack.



ERIC STEPHENS
311th Human Systems
Wing director

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536-2222

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311th Mission Support Group –		Military Pay.....	536-5778
Logistics Division.....	536-3541	Civilian Pay.....	536-8370
Safety.....	536-2111	Inspector General (FWA).....	536-2358
BDA Housing Community Maintenance.....	533-5900	Military Equal Opportunity.....	536-2584
BDA Housing Community Office.....	533-5905	EEO Complaints.....	536-3702
311th Services Division.....	536-2545	Brooks City-Base AF Project Office.....	536-3655
59th Medical Squadron (Clinic).....	536-4715	Brooks Development Authority.....	536-5366

Holiday open house ‘all decked out’

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

Wintry weather made the free hot cider and holiday snacks seem to taste especially good to visitors who participated in the Brooks Heritage Foundation Gift Shop’s 13th Annual Holiday Open House Dec.8. Dozens of people from the Brooks community, as well as military retirees and their dependents, sought to catch a bit of the holiday spirit that has embraced this event since its inception in 1992.

“It was created as a thank you gift to our customers who have supported us over the years,” said Shelia Klein, Brooks Heritage Foundation executive director. Gift shop sales help fund the Foundation that operates at the site of the world’s only museum dedicated to Air Force aeromedical evacuation. “I saw the signs and followed them here,” said Janice Hoyt, an Army retiree dependent, referring to the open house signs that promoted the event from the west gate to the complex at Hangar 9. “I was curious to see what they have here,” admits Mrs. Hoyt while inspecting gift shop items. She was among many holiday shoppers there who searched for bargains displayed on tables lined up in the center of the museum. “A lot of the items were donated by Brooks Heritage Foundation members,” Mrs. Klein said, referring to the 100 active members. The holiday gifts showcased there included Christmas ornaments, books on San Antonio and even an aviator Snoopy.

George Fetterman and Kay Webber, from Brooks Family Advocacy, were among the many visitors to the seven-and-a-half hour long event. The open house also attracted Iris Seals, from the 311th Communications Squadron, who has participated in every Brooks holiday tradition since becoming a civil servant here in 1965.



Photo by Rudy Purificato
Kay Webber (left) and Janice Hoyt examine Christmas ornaments during the Brooks Heritage Foundation’s annual holiday open house.

FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER

SPONSOR TRAINING

Jan. 10 — 10 - 11 a.m., Bldg. 537
In accordance with AFI 36-3011, sponsor training is mandatory of all first-time sponsors and those who have not sponsored within the past year. However, others are more than welcome to attend. Learn about tools and resources available for sponsors.

SMOOTH MOVE

Jan. 17 — 12:30 - 3:15 p.m., Bldg. 537
PCSing? Hear briefings from TMO, Legal, Clinic, Finance, Housing, and the Family Support Center and ask questions. Open to all active duty members, DoD civilians and spouses. Overseas move has its own set of challenges and opportunities. Learn more about OCONUS PCS by staying after for the PCS Overseas class.

SEPARATION AND RETIREMENT

Jan. 18 — 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Bldg. 537
This is a mandatory class for active military personnel who are retiring or separating within 120 days. Topics covered are Pre-Separation, Veterans Benefits, Survivors Benefit Plans, TRICARE, and Financial Planning for Transition. Spouses are encouraged to attend.

AIR FORCE AID SOCIETY EDUCATION GRANT PROGRAM

The Gen. Henry Arnold Education Grant program has increased to \$2,000 for dependent sons and daughters of Air Force members and spouses of Air Force members. Use of fund is limited to tuition, books and fees, or other direct educational expenses. This program is tailored for Air Force families with college students. Application deadline is March 10, 2006. Pick up your application brochure at the Family Support Center or visit the website at www.afas.org to get more information and download an application.

**To register for a class,
call 536-2444**



Things to do around Brooks

Janice McMahon, 536-5475

WINTER CAMP

This year's Winter Camp will be Dec. 19 through Jan. 3 from 6:45 a.m. to 5 p.m. Youth ages five through 12 are eligible to participate. Activities include cooking, field trips, outdoor time, gift wrapping lessons plus many others. Breakfast, lunch and snacks will be provided for camp attendees. Fees are determined by total household income. Camp will be closed Dec. 26 and Jan. 2.

SANTA CLAUS SUIT RENTAL

Are you having a party and the most important person is missing? The Youth Programs Center is offering a one-day Santa Claus suit rental for \$15. The suit comes with wig, beard, jacket, pants, hat, belt, shoe coverings and a bag for gifts. Have Santa visit your home or make an appearance at the office party. Reserve your suit early to ensure that jolly old St. Nick makes an appearance at your function.

LET'S WRAP IT UP

Do you have trouble gift wrapping or can't find the time to wrap your Christmas presents? Santa Claus will send his helpers to make your holiday gift wrapping painless. Let's Wrap It Up will continue through Dec. 23 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Youth Programs Center. There is no charge, but donations will be accepted. All you need to do is bring gifts for wrapping. Ribbon will be provided.

(If you have a box for your gift, please bring it with the item to be wrapped. This will help the work-

ers with wrapping your gifts. All donations will go towards the Youth and Teen Center programs.)

FIT FACTOR: YOUTH FITNESS PROGRAM

Fit Factor is a fitness program for youth, ages 9-18 years. The theme is "Get Up, Get Out, Get Fit." Visit the Youth Center to enroll your children. Collect a prize just for committing to "Get Up, Get Out, Get Fit." Once a child commits to the program he or she can go online, choose activities and log points. Youth who complete five exciting levels earn great items. Participate for a chance to learn new skills, get fit and win prizes.

YOUTH BASKETBALL REGISTRATION

Registration for youth basketball is underway and will continue until the program is filled. Youth ages 5-18 years may register. The fee is \$35 for Youth Programs Center members and \$52 for non-members. Contact the YPC at 536-2515 for more information.

FAMILY CAMP

If your home is filled to capacity with out-of-town holiday visitors, consider the Family Camp. The camp is a very secluded and quiet place where travelers like to stay for a few days, weeks or even months. The camp is located on the southwestern corner of the base. Accommodations also include the use of a bath house and restrooms located in Bldg. 1194. Full camper hookups are \$10 per day and include sewer, water and electricity. Partial camper hookups are \$8 per day. There is also a "catch and release" fishing pond for anglers.

GET IN SHAPE

Get a jump start on your New Year's fitness resolution. Stop by the fitness center to begin a new workout or join any of the free classes offered by the staff. On-going instructional classes:

- *Aerobics*: Mon, Wed: 5 p.m.; Fri: 11:30 a.m.
- *Yoga*: Mon, Wed, Fri: 5 p.m.
- *Pilates*: Mon, Wed, Thurs: 5 p.m.
- *Kickboxing*: Mon: 11:30 a.m.; Fri: 5 p.m.
- *Power Cycling*: Tues, Thurs: 11:30 a.m., 5 p.m.
- *Circuit Training*: Tu, Th: 6:15 a.m., 11:30 a.m.



BROOKS BRIEFS



Volunteers needed

Brooks is seeking volunteers from all base units to help with the planning and organization of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Observation Day. Volunteers will be required to meet several times from now until the day of the event.

Volunteers should plan to assist with fundraisers and setting up on the day of the event. For more information, contact Sandra Castro at 536-4418 or sandra.castro@brooks.af.mil.

Brooks Clinic offering flu vaccines

The Brooks Clinic is offering flu vaccinations to all military active-duty members, dependants, and retirees. Stop by the Brooks Immunizations clinic with valid military identification to request flu vaccination. Flu vaccines will be administered on a first-come, first-serve basis while supplies last.

The information line for the Brooks Clinic has been changed to 536-2875. The main appointment line, 536-1847, has not changed.

Interactive Customer Evaluation

To encourage and simplify customer feedback, the Secretary of Defense's Quality Management Office has developed an Interactive Customer Evaluation system. ICE is a web-

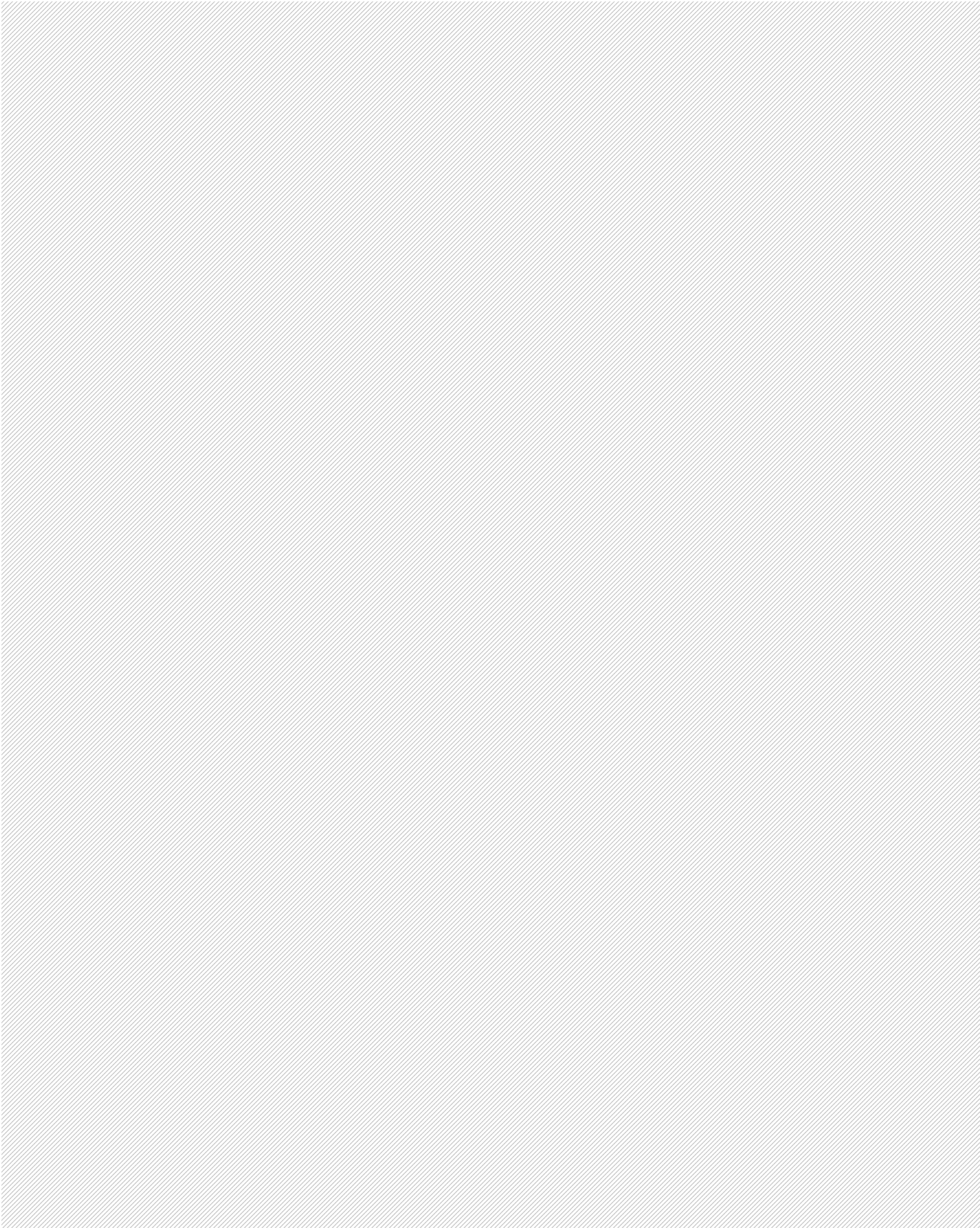
based tool capable of collecting feedback on services provided by installations. ICE is simple to access, easy to use and takes just a couple of minutes to complete.

Customers are able to submit online comment cards to rate service providers throughout the installation. Comments can be anonymous or you can request a response. As such, customer service can be improved because managers now have the ability to monitor the satisfaction levels through customer comments. Senior leaders receive cumulative customer service satisfaction statistics by organization from ICE software.

Brooks City-Base customers may provide comments by accessing the Brooks homepage at www.brooks.af.mil, clicking on the ICE icon and selecting an activity to give feedback on.

New commerical travel office

Effective Jan. 1, N&N Travel will no longer be the commercial travel office, as Alamo Travel Group was awarded the travel contract. There will be no break in service and the hours of operations will remain the same. The Brooks phone number remains 536-1800, but the toll free number has changed to 866-532-1147 and the after duty hours number has changed to 866-580-1420.





AFMC announces new AFRL commander

By Kathleen A.K. Lopez
Air Force Materiel Command Public Affairs

Air Force Materiel Command officials announced Dec. 8 that Maj. Gen. Ted Bowlds will be the new commander of the Air Force Research Laboratory.

General Bowlds' current position is deputy program executive officer and vice commander, Aeronautical Systems Center, also headquartered here. The center is responsible for managing more than 50 major programs and an annual budget of \$18 billion. It has 37 units worldwide.

The general entered the Air Force in 1975 through ROTC. He has served as a flight-test engineer on the F-117 Nighthawk, an avionics program manager on the B-2 Spirit, Chief of Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missile development in the AMRAAM System Program Office and as commander of Rome Laboratory, Rome, N.Y.

"I selected General Bowlds to be the new AFRL commander because of his leadership ability, uncompromising character and technical expertise," said Gen. Bruce Carlson, commander, AFMC. "Ted has a solid record of successfully leading complex organizations and meeting large acquisition challenges. He has my



Maj. Gen. Ted Bowlds

complete confidence and I know he will take our Air Force lab to a new level of competency."

General Bowlds succeeds Maj. Gen. Perry Lamy.

As AFRL commander, General Bowlds will lead management of the Air Force's \$1.3 billion science and technology program as well as \$1.1 billion of customer-funded research and development.

In other assignments across the command, Brig. Gen. David Eichhorn will replace General Bowlds at ASC. General Eichhorn is currently deputy for support and vice commander of Electronic Systems Center, Hanscom Air Force Base, Mass.

Maj. Gen. Arthur Rooney Jr., will become ESC vice commander. Currently, General Rooney is commander, Air Force Security Assistance Center, Wright-Patterson AFB.

Brig. Gen. David Eidsaune will become AFSAC commander. General Eidsaune is currently the director of the Air Component Coordination Element, Multi-National Force-Iraq in Baghdad.

New NSPS training available as transition nears

By Ed Shannon
311th Human Systems Wing/Public Affairs

With Brooks transitioning to the new National Security Personnel System in less than three months, base NSPS officials encourage employees and managers to take advantage of several training opportunities being offered for a smooth transition.

The newest class, called Labor Relations for Practitioners, is designed for supervisors and managers of civilians only and will be offered at Brooks Jan. 24 and 26 in Bldg. 775 Room 168. The four-hour classes will be offered each day from 7:30 to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 to 4:30 p.m.

"You must be a supervisor or a manager to register for this class," said Toni Robertson, Brooks NSPS Training Coordinator. "Participants can register through the Community of Practice website at afkm.wpafb.af.mil."

Ms. Robertson said the schedule for other classes designed for supervisors, managers and non-bargaining unit employees will be announced in January. She expects an announcement soon on the Performance Management and Human Resource Elements classes that will be offered to this group. She also encourages supervisors and managers to participate in the computer-based training courses being offered.

"The computer based training courses have been offered for several months. They include the various change management and skills management courses offered for managers and supervisors," she said.

Managers and supervisors must take one of the following change Management courses online: "Leading Through Change," "Communicating and Reinforcing Change," "Change Leadership," "Managing Through the Change," "Overcoming the Challenges of Change," or "Beginning the Change Process."

They must also take one of the following skills management courses: "The Manager as Coach and Counselor," "Continuous Performance Assessment," or "An Essential Guide to Giving Feedback."

Schedules for several classes that will be offered to bargaining unit employees will be announced in January or February, Ms. Robertson said. They will include "Performance Management" and "Human Resource Elements for Employees."

Meanwhile, non-supervisors should also take advantage of the numerous computer based training classes available. Non-supervisors must take one of the following change management courses: "Being Prepared for Change," "Perspectives on Organizational Change," or "Communicating during Organizational Change."

Non-supervisors must also take one of the following soft-skills courses offered online: "Leading Change from the Front Line," "Conquering Conflict through Communication," "Communication Skills for Resolving Conflict," or "The Dynamics of Interaction."

The change management and skills management classes for supervisors and non-supervisors range from two and one-half to five hours and are completed on line. To register, visit the Air Force Portal at <https://www.my.af.mil>. Login and ensure you are on the AF Home Page tab. Look on that page for the "Top Viewed Items" list and click on the "IT E-Learning" tab. The SkillPort page will appear. In the search box, type in the name of the class you want to take.

For more information about training, contact Ms. Robertson at 4-5692. Employees with questions about NSPS can email their questions to the "NSPS Brooks" address listed on the Global Directory. The email address is NSPS@brooks.af.mil.



Unit assesses security threats by monitoring phone calls, email

By Kendahl Johnson
Discovery editor

Santa Claus knows when you've been bad or good, and when it comes to discussing classified information over an unsecured phone line, so does the Air Force.

Although Santa's methods of knowing remain a mystery, the Air Force enlists the help of the 710th Information Operations Flight, a reserve unit at Brooks City-Base. Their job is to monitor all Air Force communications, including phone calls, e-mails and faxes, listening for classified information or information that if used by the enemy could pose a threat to operational security.

"There's a red sticker on your phone that says the use of your phone subjects you to monitoring. There are people out there that actually do that," said Capt. Rick Collison, director of operations for the 710th IOF.

The 710th IOF is one of two reserve units that help support the Air Force's three active duty communications intelligence organizations. (The 68th Information Operations Squadron at Brooks, the 426th IOS in Germany and the 352nd IOS at Hickham Field, Hawaii.) It became the first communications intelligence unit in the Air Force Reserve when it was established in October 1981 as the 8075th Electronic Security Squadron at Carlswell Air Force Base, Texas. Now part of Air Combat Command's Air Intelligence Agency, the unit consists of 46 reservists and two full-time employees.

The unit's primary responsibility is assessing the operational security of a unit. They travel to various Air Force bases around the country and spend a week or two monitoring messages sent by phone and e-mail. They submit a report of their findings to unit commanders, who use the report to tighten operational security.

"We are interested in learning what the enemy, if it was really listening, might learn about the unit, the mission or the operation," said Maj. Beverly Golden, commander of 710th IOF, adding that their unit is under strict regulations on how they may operate. "There are very specific guidelines of when and how we can do this business," she said.

Although those monitoring calls are not interested in personal matters, if they discover criminal activity that would pose a threat of imminent danger to an individual,

they will report it. "We aren't interested in personal and private information. We don't collect that information and don't put that in the report," Major Golden said.

The electronics security systems analysts who monitor calls receive an eight-week intensive education at a technical school at Goodfellow AFB, Texas. They learn the technical aspects of monitoring communications and are trained to assess a threat and explain what the threat means to a particular unit. In addition, they learn a lot about the Air Force in general. "In order to understand what you are monitoring and be able to grasp information, you have to also understand everything the Air Force does," Captain Collison said.

Despite being highly trained, those monitoring communications do not always use highly advanced technology. "The equipment we have is not necessarily that specialized," Captain Collison said. "It's equipment that just about anyone could get rather easily."

Captain Collison said his unit does not try to hide the fact that they are monitoring calls. He wants Air Force personnel to know their calls could be monitored anytime. He said what they do is important to the operational security of the various units they monitor and if those units know there is a chance they are being monitored, they will be more careful with the information they are safeguarding.

So heed the red sticker warning on all Department of Defense phones that asks users not to discuss classified information, because someone from the 710th Information Operation Flight might be listening, so be good for goodness sake.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Brandy Bogart

Master Sgt. Evelyn Kemp, senior NCOIC of administration, and Capt. Rick Collison, director of operations, are part of the 710th Information Operations Flight, a reserve unit at Brooks that monitors communications to assess threats to operational security.



COLLISON



FULL NAME:

Capt. Rick Thomas Collison

DUTY TITLE, ORGANIZATION:

Director of Operations,
710th Information Operations Flight
(Full-time senior
Air Reserve Technician)

IN SIMPLE TERMS,
WHAT DO YOU DO?:

Direct and manage the units Elec-
tronic Security Assessment mission.
Provide expertise and oversight as a
senior intelligence analyst.

BIRTHDAY:

April 16, 1966

HOMETOWN:

Spokane, Wash.

FAMILY STATUS:

Divorced, two daughters

PERSONAL MOTTO:

"Do your best at whatever your doing
and the opportunities will come to you
by default."

INSPIRATIONS:

Steve Prefontaine, one of the best
distance runners in history

HOBBIES:

Running, spending time with my
children

PET PEEVE:

Being late

I JOINED THE MILITARY
BECAUSE:

I enlisted back in 1984 because there
were very few opportunities in my home
town. I have not regretted it for a
minute.

FIVE-YEAR GOAL:

Make this unit into best place to be in
the Air Force Reserve

ULTIMATE GOAL:

First reserve officer to be Chairman of
the Joint Chiefs of Staff

IF I WON THE LOTTERY I'D:

Pay off all my bills, give some to my
family and the rest to charities, but I
wouldn't quit my day job, as 50 percent
of all lottery winners are bankrupt after
10 years.

MY GREATEST ACCOMPLISHMENT:

Being a great father.

Reservist serious about protecting Air Force from the enemy



Photos by Staff. Sgt. Brandy Bogart



By Kendahl Johnson

Discovery editor

Many people working in the Air Force have jobs that help contribute to the operational security of individual units, including one Air Reserve Technician who takes that responsibility seriously.

Capt. Rick Collison is the director of operations for the 710th Information Operations Flight at Brooks City-Base. Among other things, his unit does electronics security systems assessments, monitoring Air Force communications to ensure proper operational security protocol (see related story on page 11). They listen for the divulging of classified information or information that if used by the enemy could pose a threat.

"We listen for anything that an enemy might use to threaten the operational security of a unit," Captain Collison said. "It's important that people aren't discussing classified information over an unsecured phone line."

The captain knows a little about security in general. He lost some personal security at a very early age — when he was just two years old, his father passed away, leaving his mother to care for him and his sisters. She was unable to support her children, and they were sent to live in a Catholic orphanage. "Back in the 60s, the nuns could still get a little mean at times, but it wasn't so bad," Captain Collison said. "It was like having a bunch more brothers and sisters."

He lived in the orphanage until he was six, then starting moving around to different foster homes. He said his experiences as a child have been helpful in developing a solid military career. "I learned how to move, change and adapt

to many different environments," he said.

Captain Collison said his opportunities were limited, so he decided to join the military. He enlisted in the Navy in 1984. He served for four years, traveling the world aboard the USS Constellation. He enjoyed his time with the Navy, but was interested in joining the Air Force Reserves. "I made a couple of cruises around the world and saw a lot of neat things, but I just felt like the Air Force was a better opportunity for me," Captain Collison said.

The captain enlisted in as a reservist in 1988, and for the next decade served in various capacities on several bases on

Do the absolute best at whatever you are doing. Take the hard jobs that no one wants to do and do those jobs well. You'll be noticed and rewarded.

Capt. Rick Collison

710th Information Operations Flight

the west coast. He was a cargo pallet push, unit training manager and wing superintendent of training education, serving primarily at Fairchild Air Force Base, Wash., and Travis AFB, Calif. He had advanced to the rank of master sergeant, when his career took a random turn.

"I was literally walking down the street when I ran into a friend who told me they were looking for an intelligence officer," Captain Collison said. "I applied and was hired."

He spent the next five year's on continuous orders, when the 710th IOF invited him to be an Air Reserve Technician. During the week, he works as a civilian employee, managing the unit's administrative functions. On duty weekends, he holds the role of director of operations.

Since joining the military, Captain

Collison has found the time to further his education, earning four degrees. He earned two associates degrees — one from Spokane Falls Community College and the other from the Community College of the Air Force. He earned a bachelor's degree in program management from Whitworth College in Spokane, Wash., and a master's degree in business administration from Webster's University.

When not working or going to school, the captain has had time to pursue various hobbies, including running. A former high school track and cross country star, he doesn't race competitively anymore, but he still enjoys running. "I logged more than 1,000 miles around the flight deck on the USS Constellation," he said.

In addition to running, Captain Collison is an amateur historian. But most of his spare time is spent with his eight- and 10-year old daughters. "Spend-
ing time with my kids is the ultimate hobby of mine."

Captain Collison has enjoyed his career in the Air Force. He has this advice for young Airmen just beginning their careers: "Do the absolute best at whatever you are doing. Take the hard jobs that no one wants to do and do those jobs well. You'll be noticed and rewarded. Also, always try to present a positive image about yourself and your environment, regardless of the circumstances."

The captain said he works hard to maintain a positive attitude and projecting a positive image. And he continues to work hard to protect the Air Force and our country by assessing threats to the operational security of individual units. But most importantly, he said he works hardest at protecting his integrity, an attribute he values above all others.



SPREADING HOLIDAY CHEER

By Elizabeth Castillo

Discovery writer

Holidays are not only a time to be jolly, but also a time to be helping others. This season, as the spirit of giving spreads throughout the nation, Brooks is reaching out to many charitable organizations by providing toys and donations to families in need.

Brooks employees have graciously donated food, toys, and money, as well as countless hours of service, to charitable organizations such as Angel Tree, Blue Santa, Brooks Cares, Elf Louise, and Toys for Tots.

The main effort in helping families in need is Brooks Cares, a program sponsored by the First Sergeants Association. Brooks Cares has been around for 20 years, focusing on the needs of the Brooks City-Base community. Families who are in need are chosen by the first sergeants to receive toys and food.

"Everybody is very excited to do it," said Master Sgt. Laurie Olerich, first sergeant for the Wing Staff Agency. "I really think that it is an important thing to do."

From Thanksgiving to just before Christmas, toys and non-perishable foods are donated through Brooks Cares boxes placed throughout the base. This year, Brooks Cares is working to support the needs of 26 families here. The program is not limited to military personnel, but is open to civilian families too.

Running in support of Brooks Cares is the Angel Tree project. Last year was the first year Brooks held the Angel Tree project, and was successful at presenting 33 Brooks members with

gifts. This year, the Angel Tree hopes to have even greater success by supporting 53 members of the Brooks community.

In addition to trees located at Sydney's, Bldg. 150 and the Family Support Center, the extended community is supporting the project as well.

"This year we actually have another tree outside of the base at the Village Inn," said Lucy Belles, director of the Family Support Center. "This is the first time an outside agency has asked to help."

Brooks is not only contributing to charitable organizations by volunteering time or donating money and goods, it has also volunteered its buildings. Bldg. 8015 on Crouch Road is being used to store hundreds of donated toys and thousands of pounds of food in support of Blue Santa.

For the first time last year, Brooks hosted the Blue Santa operations at the old fire station. Founded by the San Antonio Police Officers Association in 1976, Blue Santa has been distributing toys and food to needy families in San Antonio. Along with San Antonio families, this year Hurricane Katrina evacuees will also receive donated gifts and food.

Other outside charities rely on the support of the Brooks community in order to fulfill their own goals of reaching out to San Antonio as well as the nation.

The Elf Louise project began in 1969 by Louise Locker. It is dedicated to gathering and distributing toys to San Antonio families. This year's goal is to collect toys for 15,000 children, and wrap 30,000 gifts in seven days.

"Brooks City-Base has always been a great source for eager, capable volunteers," said Sharon Early, management analyst for the 311th Human Systems Wing. Mrs. Early said the 68th Information Operations Squadron, senior NCOs and others have

volunteered huge amounts of time and energy to make the Project a success.

Mrs. Early has been a volunteer for the Elf Louise Christmas Project since moving to San Antonio in 1984 when a friend advised her to help the "Elves" to beat her holiday blues.

"It's hard to be depressed when surrounded by happy wrappers, toys and holiday music," Mrs. Early said. "That friend gave me such good advice, I eventually married him! And 21 years later, I'm still there."

Some volunteering efforts may affect the lives of those who volunteer, but charitable



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Alfonso Ramirez Jr.

Airman 1st Class Arsen Stepanian (left) and Airman 1st Class Christian Favorite of the 68th Information Operations Squadron volunteer time to wrap presents at the Elf Louise Project. This year's goal is to wrap 30,000 gifts for San Antonio children in need.

organizations are devoted to making the Christmases of needy families memorable and fulfilling experiences.

1st Lt. Dawn Standridge remembers a story her husband shared recalling a Christmas from his childhood where he did not receive any gifts. "He and his brothers just went back to their bedrooms and cried" she said. "Just to think that any child would have to go through that is just sad."

Thanks to such organizations such as the Marine Corps Toys for Tots, children may not have to.

Adopted by the Marine Corps in 1948, Toys for Tots is a non-profit organization dedicated to delivering shiny new toys to needy children for Christmas. With boxes set up at Sydney's, the gym and MPF, personnel are asked to donate unwrapped toys in support of the Toys for Tots organization. The deadline for all submissions is Dec. 23. To raise funds to purchase additional toys, Brooks hosted a Toys for Tots 5k race/family walk on Dec. 3.

"I think it is really important for a child to have gifts for Christmas," said

Lieutenant Standridge. "Toys for Tots is a chance for people to help those who are less fortunate."

Thanks to the many organizations and committed volunteers, Brooks City-Base members are able to share the spirit of the season with their community. Together, personnel can help make

For people who have not yet volunteered, I think it is one of the most rewarding things a person could do.

Master Sgt. Laurie Olerich
First Sergeant, Wing Staff Agency

not yet volunteered, I think it is one of the most rewarding things a person could do," said Sergeant Olerich. "We all have blessings in our life, good things that happen to us, and I think that a lot of the times, those good things that happen need to be shared."

extraordinary Christmas memories for needy families. "For people who have



Photo by Elizabeth Castillo

Staff Sgt. Nakeva L. Thomas picks a name from an Angel Tree's located at Bldg. 150. Angel Tree is an organization working in conjunction with Brooks Cares to distribute donated gifts to Brooks families in need. The project aims to support 53 families this year.



Photo by Elizabeth Castillo

Lieutenants Christina DaLuz, Erica Anderson and Jessica Smith of the Air Force Research Laboratory sort through donated food at the Base Chapel. Food, toys and other items were donated as part of the Brooks Cares program, sponsored by the First Sergeants Association.



A
LOOK
at
BROOKS

What is your
favorite
holiday tradition?



Senior Airman
Justin Arnold
88th AMDS

Being with my family talking about old memories and eating at my grandma's house.



Julie Sandoval
USAFSAM

Spending quality time with my mom and sisters while making tamales.



Alyssa Segura
RBFCU

We have someone from the family dress up like Santa and give out gifts to all of the kids.



Staff Sgt. Mark Harewood
59th MDS

We go "paranging," which is going from house to house getting food and drinks while playing music with a bottle and a spoon.



Airman 1st Class
Charles Lloyd
68th IOS

On Christmas Eve we open presents with my dad's parents, play cards and eat.

Legal Assistance Hours: If you need a power of attorney, will or other legal assistance, please call the Brooks Legal Office at 536-3301. Legal assistance is available to active duty and retired military personnel and their dependents. Appointments are available Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 8:30-11:30 a.m. and walk-ins are welcome Thursdays from 1:30-2:45 p.m. The legal office offers notary services during duty hours Monday through Friday on a drop-in basis. Those with short notice deployment or other emergency may call or walk-in to the Legal Office any time.



NEW ORLEANS SAINTS
TICKETS AVAILABLE

The New Orleans Saints are giving away 10,000 free tickets to military members for their Dec. 24 game against the Detroit Lions at noon at the Alamodome. Tickets will be available from Services. For more information contact Capt. Michael Wyatt at 536-2545.

(Tickets are not for resale.)



Sports in Review: Athletes showcase talents in 2005

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

From glowing golf balls to the distinct challenges a common exercise creates when taken to the extreme, Brooks introduced new events in 2005 that allowed athletes to showcase their talents.

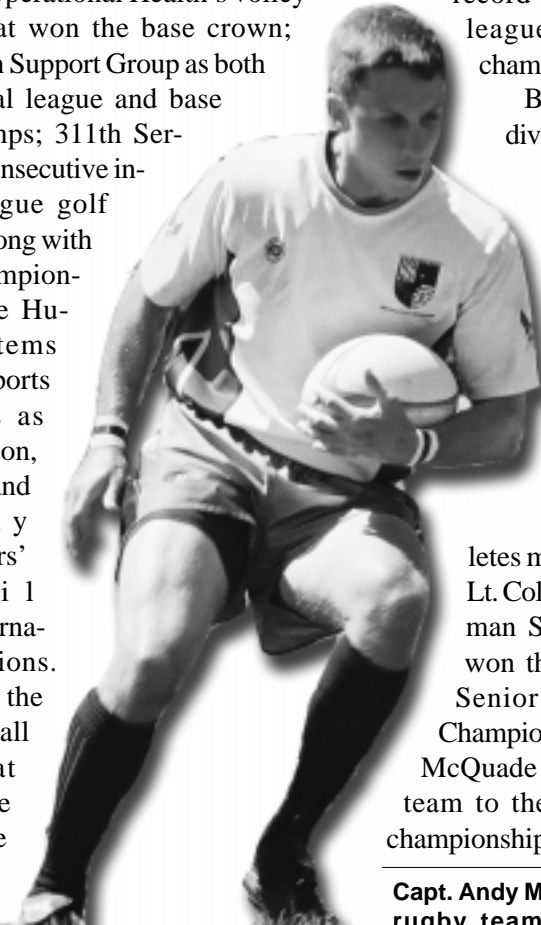
Night golf premiered in April, thanks to the vision of 311th Services' deputy director Capt. Michael Wyatt who introduced it. This illuminating novelty, created 13 years ago, uses specially designed golf balls that glow in the dark.

The first push-up-a-thon that Brooks has hosted raised \$1,596 in March for the Air Force Assistance Fund. The Human Systems Group's 2nd Lt. Scott Horsley set a base record with 243 pushups.

Brooks youth sports accomplished a basketball feat not previously achieved when three teams here simultaneously won championships in March. They included the undefeated 11-12 year-old Brooks Eagles #3 team that was victorious in the 11-12 year-old boys' basketball tournament; the Brooks 15-17 year-old boys' squad, winners of the base hoop tourney for their age group; and the Brooks 13-14 year-old girls' team beecame the first female youth hoop squad to ever win a title when it captured

the Randolph basketball tournament championship.

Among adult teams from Brooks that won championships were the Air Force Institute for Operational Health's volleyball team that won the base crown; 311th Mission Support Group as both the intramural league and base softball champs; 311th Services' third consecutive intramural league golf crown won along with the base championship; and the Human Systems Group was Sports Day victors as well as triathlon, flag football and Company Grade Officers' Council dodgeball tournament champions. AFIOH won the other dodgeball tourney that helped raise money for the Combined Federal Campaign.



Leading the pack of team titlists was MSG's achievement in March. This club became only the fourth team in Brooks sports history to have an undefeated record as both the intramural league and base basketball champions.

Brooks also produced individual champions at the local and Department of Defense levels. HSG's Erica Lindstrand and Air Force Research Laboratory's Rob Taylor earned Brooks "Female and Male Athletes of the Year" honors, respectively.

Two other Brooks athletes made their mark in sports. Lt. Col. Alan Pineault, 311th Human Systems Wing chaplain, won the San Antonio Greater Senior Men's Amateur Golf Championship, and AFRL's Andy McQuade captained the Air Force team to the Armed Forces rugby championship.

Capt. Andy McQuade led the Air Force rugby team to an Armed Forces championship.

Teams to compete for bragging rights in fantasy challenge

Four teams are competing for bragging rights in Discovery's Fantasy Football Challenge, as the season will soon end. The playoffs begin this weekend, with the league champion to be determined by two weeks of grueling playoff competition.

In a match up of 311th Human Systems Wing Public Affairs personnel, Discovery editor Kendahl Johnson (12-2) takes on 2nd Lt. John Chattaway (9-5). Johnson, the preseason favorite, finished the season with the league's best record and enters the playoffs as the number one seed. He will face the leagues fourth seed Chattaway, who got off to a slow start but finished the season with seven straight victories to breeze into the playoffs.

Two Air Force Research Laboratory employees will face off in the other playoff game. Second seed Staff Sgt. Max Alvarado (10-4) will face third seed Tech. Sgt. Warren Benge (9-4-1) for a chance to compete for the league title and bragging rights as the top fantasy footballer at Brooks City-Base.

Although Johnson holds the league's best record, a slight edge goes to Chattaway in this playoff game. "I think I have the best chance at winning it all," Chattaway said. "I came in fourth and have to play the first place team, but I've already beat him once this year."

Chattaway's quarterback Peyton Manning has had another MVP season, leading the Colts to an undefeated season. Johnson, however, has struggled filling the QB slot after starter Donavon McNabb went down with an injury. Late season acquisition Drew Bledsoe will be called upon to carry the load.

At running back, the edge goes to Johnson. Tiki Barber has been solid and Shaun Alexander leads the NFL in touchdowns. Rudy Johnson and Thomas Jones carry the ball for Chattaway. Both have explosive potential. Both team's receivers are evenly matched.

Alvarado heads into the second playoff game as the favorite. He was the highest scoring team in the league - his was the only team to crack 1,500 points. "I expect to win, as long as my team stays healthy and competitive," Alvarado said. "There will be a lot of close games, but I think my chances are pretty good."

Alvarado's team has been led all season by Ladanian Tomlinson, the NFL's top running back. The Chargers are still fighting for a playoff spot, which will work in Alvarado's favor. But his success may rest in the hands of Peyton's little brother Eli, who has had a solid year but has been a little inconsistent when it comes to scoring points.

Benge could be the surprise team of the playoffs. On paper, they are solid from top to bottom. He has one of the best quarterback-to-receiver connections in the league with Cincinnati's Carson Palmer and Chad Johnson. But his star is Larry Johnson, who took over Kansas City's starting running back role when Priest Holmes was injured.

"I like my chances to win the league title, but the playoff teams are all pretty even," Benge said, adding that his loss to Alvarado in the regular season was by just one point.

League participants who missed the playoffs were Staff Sgt. James Sheerin (5-8-1), Capt. James Kisner (4-10), Senior Airman Andre Scott (3-11) and Capt. Jason Bishop (3-11). These four teams will play in the consolation bracket to determine who is best among the worst.

Planning your holiday bowl viewing schedule

This year, there are 28 football games on the bowl schedule. Since watching football competes with so many other holiday activities, it's nearly impossible to watch all of them. So viewers must choose a handful of games on the schedule.

In an effort to help our readers make the difficult decisions, we offer a few of what we think are the best matchups on the schedule. There are a lot of great games on the schedule, but we've narrowed it down to six "must see" games:

Poinsetta Bowl (Dec. 22) — Since the Air Force Academy didn't make it to a bowl this year, we need to support our sister military service, the Navy Midshipmen. They face off against Mountain West opponent Colorado State.

Alamo Bowl (Dec. 29) — A couple of historical football powerhouses are coming to town. You should probably try to get off the couch and go to the Alamodome and catch this one live.

Holiday Bowl (Dec. 29) — This is one of the better bowl match ups. Oregon, a top-five team, is taking on Oklahoma, last year's runner up. Oregon is out to prove it deserved a bid to a BCS bowl game while Oklahoma hopes to salvage a disappointing season.

Fiesta Bowl (Jan. 2) — It's always fun to have a team to cheer against and for many, it's the Fighting Irish. Go Buckeyes!

Orange Bowl (Jan. 2) — How does Florida State at 8-4 deserve to be in a BCS bowl game? If nothing else, this game should ignite the controversy that surrounds the BCS bowl selection process, where mediocrity in a high-profile conference is rewarded.

Rose Bowl (Jan. 4) — If any game on this list was an automatic, it was this one where the two best teams in the country square off for the national championship in the last game of the season. Make sure to catch the traditional pre-game parade.

— Kendahl Johnson, Discovery Editor

2005-06 BOWL SCHEDULE

DATE	BOWL	MATCHUP
Tue., Dec. 20	New Orleans	Arkansas St. vs. Southern Miss
Wed., Dec. 21	GMAC	UTEP vs. Toledo
Thurs., Dec. 22	Las Vegas	California vs. BYU
Thurs., Dec. 22	Poinsettia	Colorado State vs. Navy
Fri., Dec. 23	Fort Worth	Kansas vs. Houston
Sat., Dec. 24	Hawaii	Nevada vs. Central Florida
Mon., Dec. 26	Motor City	Memphis vs. Akron
Tues., Dec. 27	Champs	Clemson vs. Colorado
Tues., Dec. 27	Insight	Arizona St. vs. Rutgers
Wed., Dec. 28	MPC Computers	Boise St. vs. Boston College
Wed., Dec. 28	Alamo	Michigan vs. Nebraska
Thurs., Dec. 29	Emerald	Georgia Tech vs. Utah
Thurs., Dec. 29	Holiday	Oregon vs. Oklahoma
Fri., Dec. 30	Music City	Minnesota vs. Virginia
Fri., Dec. 30	Sun	UCLA vs. Northwestern
Fri., Dec. 30	Independence	South Carolina vs. Missouri
Fri., Dec. 30	Peach	Miami (Fla.) vs. LSU
Sat., Dec. 31	Meineke Car Care	South Florida vs. NC State
Sat., Dec. 31	Liberty	Tulsa vs. Fresno State
Sat., Dec. 31	Houston	TCU vs. Iowa State
Mon., Jan. 2	Outback	Iowa vs. Florida
Mon., Jan. 2	Cotton	Alabama vs. Texas Tech
Mon., Jan. 2	Gator	Louisville vs. Virginia Tech
Mon., Jan. 2	Capital One	Wisconsin vs. Auburn
Mon., Jan. 2	Fiesta	Notre Dame vs. Ohio State
Mon., Jan. 2	Sugar	Georgia vs. West Virginia
Tues., Jan. 3	Orange	Florida State vs. Penn State
Wed., Jan. 4	Rose	USC vs. Texas



Editor's Challenge: College bowl game prediction contest

Think you know your sports? Test your prognostication skills against the editor of the Discovery by predicting the winners of the 28 college football bowl games listed above.

Submit your predictions to kendahl.johnson@brooks.af.mil. Entries must be received no later than Dec. 20. The challenge is free and is open to anyone that reads the paper. To win, you must make more correct predictions than the editor, whose picks will be posted to the Discovery website by Dec. 21. In the highly unlikely event that multiple entrants notch more correct picks than the editor, the person who makes the most correct picks will be the overall winner. In the spirit of the holidays, the winner will receive a prize. Good luck!



Brooks varsity basketball team to attempt second half rebound

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

The Brooks Blazers plan to rebound from twin opening season losses to Lackland Air Force Base when they host their cross-town rivals this weekend at the Fitness Center. The two-game weekend series could prove to be a turning point for the base varsity basketball team, as it hopes to build momentum as a potential contender for the Southwest Military Basketball League crown.

Entering the midseason games with a 4-7 record, the Brooks club has shown more progress this year than last at this pivotal juncture. However, Blazers’ head coach Damion Byrd is counting on the experience the team has gained during the season’s first half to mount a successful second half campaign.

“The first half of our season has been characterized by inconsistency and missed opportunities,” Byrd said.

He believes the team has turned a corner. “I am very encouraged by the direction the team is headed in. If we can get



Photo by Rudy Purificato

Brooks Blazers’ head coach Damion Byrd has helped guide the men’s varsity team to marked improvement over the past two seasons.

out of our own way and maintain a positive focus for longer periods during the second half of the season, our record and positioning in the SWMBL will reflect the level of play we expect here at Brooks,” he said.

The coach wasn’t so positive about the team’s future when Lackland AFB handed the Blazers two very disappointing losses to begin the season. Brooks’ losing streak climbed to three when they lost a heartbreaking home contest in overtime to Laughlin

AFB. The Blazers, however, managed to salvage the second game of the series before hosting Goodfellow AFB the following weekend.

“Goodfellow took advantage of a sleepwalking Brooks team and walked away with a 77-72 overtime victory,” recalls Byrd. Brooks earned a split of their two-game home series with a 70-60 victory.

The Blazers’ momentum carried over to their next road series when they dominated Dyess

AFB, defeating them 78-66. The victory marked the first time in three seasons that Brooks had won back-to-back games, Byrd noted. Unfortunately, Dyess AFB ended the Blazers’ winning streak by earning a split of their series.

The Brooks squad’s success in the second half rests squarely on key contributors’ continued improvement. The team will rely on guards Wilman Dean from the 68th Information Operations Squadron and Mission Support Group’s Roderick Bryant. The duo averaged 15 points a game during the season’s first half.

“Emerging as one of the best point guards in the entire 12-team league is Russell ‘Cortez’ Jackson (from the 68th IOS) who has provided a calming influence, timely shooting and suffocating ball defense that will prove invaluable as the season progresses,” the head coach said.

Other starters are also showing significant progress. Byrd observes, “Laderis Harper is slowly but surely starting to impact the pivot on both ends of the floor in a way that will catapult Brooks to (becoming) a potent force if he plays to the level we believe he’s capable.” Rookie power forward Tobby Proctor

has given the team a third scoring option while also becoming reliable on defense and as a rebounder, Byrd said.

The Blazers’ bench, nicknamed “The Dog Pound,” has morphed into one of the team’s strengths. “They are often called upon to provide a defensive spark and speed up the pace of the game,” Byrd explains, noting, “they have played their role very well, but I expect much more from this unit in the second half.”

Led by the Human System Group’s Anthony Tillman and Demetrius Stewart, “The Dog Pound” also features potent scorer Richard Woodard, three-point wizard Josh Arrambide and a trio of high energy performers in Reggie Hardin, James Gregory and Marcus Butler.

Former Blazers’ assistant coach Mike Pena best characterized the evolving disposition of the team when he said, “They seem to have started to have more fun.”

It would not be unreasonable to consider, should the Blazers’ victories continue to mount, that they’ll in the end have had a barrel of laughs while celebrating their first hoop championship.